

WHCOA IAAE “Solution Session” held at the NYS OCFS AATI - October 7, 2005

WHCoA IAAE Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: ___NYS OCFS Adult Abuse Training Institute IAAE

Date of Event: ___October 7, 2005

Location of Event: Prime Hotel and Conf Ctr. Saratoga Springs, New York

Number of Persons Attending: 400

Sponsoring Organization(s): NYS Office of Children and Family Services
Bureau of Adult Services

Contact Name: Susan B. Somers, Asst. Comm. Bureau of Adult Services

Telephone Number: (518) 402-6782 **Email:** susan.somers@ocfs.state.ny.us

Please follow this format for each priority area, with the most important listed first.

Priority Issue #1: *Elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation is a growing problem facing our aging population. That the prevalence of elder abuse and neglect is unknown.*

Barriers: See attached Resolution

Proposed Solution(s): See attached Resolution addressing solutions.

WHCOA IAAE “Solution Session” held at the NYS OCFS AATI - October 7, 2005

Whereas: Elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation is a growing problem facing our aging population. That the prevalence of elder abuse and neglect is unknown, and it is estimated that only one in five to one in fourteen occurrences of abuse or neglect, the “tip of the iceberg”, are reported; and

Whereas: The White House Council on Aging Annotated Agenda recognizes that

- A. **1. Planning along the Lifespan:** includes “protecting against financial fraud and exploitation is an integral part of elder...security”; and further, that
- B. **III: Our Community:** requires “Livable communities that enable the elderly to age in place.” Protected ...”from neglect and physical abuse”; and

Whereas: Protective Services for Adults (PSA) is mandated to investigate and assess reports of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults living in the community. That Protective Services for Adults together with other community services such as the Expanded in home Services for the Elderly Program, (known as EISEP, in New York State, delivered through the local AAA’s,) and other community agencies, develop interventions and service plans to maintain vulnerable and at risk adults, in the community, so long as their abilities allow them to function safely.

Now therefore: Be it resolved: To raise public awareness of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, and support Protective Services for Adults’ mission of protecting vulnerable elderly adults; we support the following solutions:

First: The Federal Government should provide financial and other incentives for States to form inter-agency coordinating councils or Multi-Disciplinary Teams on elder mistreatment, self-neglect, and financial mistreatment, as well as other issues. These councils, to be chaired by local Protective Service for Adults agencies, will develop and sustain coordination and collaboration between agencies such as, but not limited to, offices for aging, departments of health, offices of domestic violence, offices of mental health, District Attorneys, law enforcement, and members of the faith community and the private sector

Second: The Federal Government should foster research initiatives and demonstration and training programs on elder abuse as a growing public health issue including a focus on the area of “self-neglect”. These initiatives should address how to recognize, diagnose, and treat clients vulnerable to self-neglect

Third: The Federal Government should establish a Federal Office of Protective Services for Adults. This agency should be located within the Department of Health and Human Services with its Director reporting to the Secretary. The agency should have authority for coordinating Federal Agencies including the Department of Justice, as well as developing innovative policies, it should create a nationwide awareness campaign, a Nationwide Elder Abuse Month, establish uniform definitions, and foster evidence based research and fund demonstration intervention programs.

Fourth: Applied research and practice grants should be provided to the academic sector to develop collaborations with the Protective Service for Adults network to improve our knowledge about elder mistreatment and enhance measurable system outcomes. These research projects should have an emphasis on practical applications of research, data collection and analysis, and the development of model projects.

Susan B. Somers, NYS OCFS Bureau of Adult Services
52 Washington St Rm. 333 Rensselaer, NY 12144, Tel: (518) 402-6782